



New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department



By: Joanna Prukop, Cabinet Secretary

BLM Renewable Energy Summit

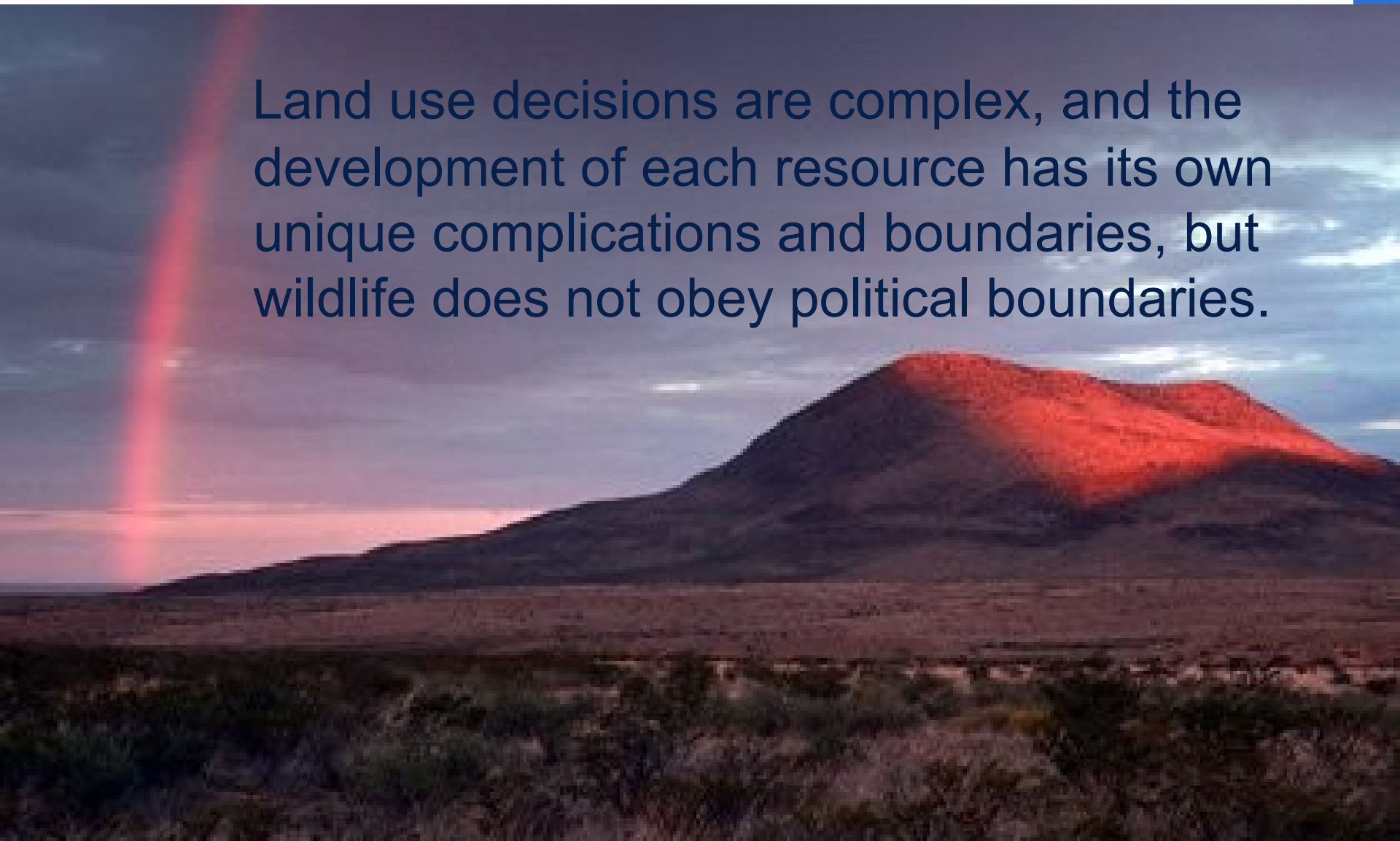
Wildlife Panel

2 September 2009



Public Land Decisions

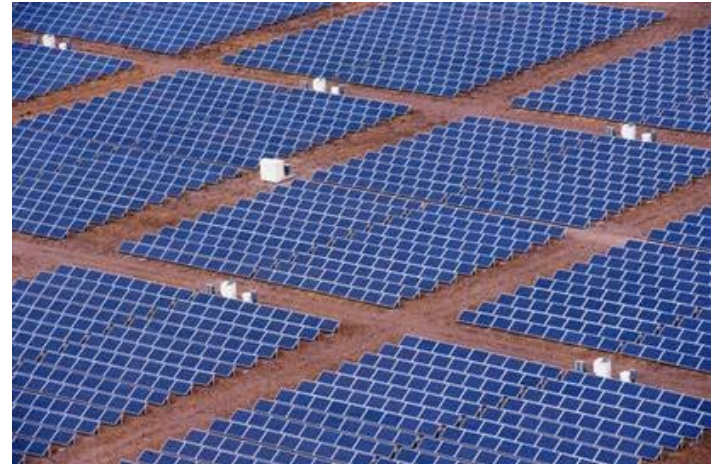
Land use decisions are complex, and the development of each resource has its own unique complications and boundaries, but wildlife does not obey political boundaries.





Energy Development Complications

- Commercial-scale solar operations blanketing effect
- Wind farms may interrupt bird and bat migration paths
- Transmission corridors create surface disturbances





Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies— Energy & Wildlife Policy Committee

Mission: To work cooperatively with public and private interests to adequately protect fish and wildlife resources and their habitats during energy exploration, development and production.

■ Committee Charge

- Focus on energy development/generation in North America
- Active liaison to monitor, advise, review and coordinate energy related issues
- Monitor federal programs and inform – funding opportunities
- Policy recommendations
- Interact with other AFWA committees
- Broad geographic subject matter representation



AWFA Subcommittee structure

- Oil and Gas Onshore
- Wind/Transmission
- Oil Shale
- Coal
- Climate Change
- Oil and Gas Off Shore



- Priorities

- On Shore Oil and Gas
- Wind
- Climate Change
- Wildlife related baseline data—pop goals and objectives
- Time frames



Green Energy/ Wildlife Co-existence

- ✓ Better decisions could be made if there were a **system-wide process** that brought state and federal agencies together with the **interested parties**.
- ✓ Western Governor's Association
- ✓ Wildlife Corridors Initiative
- ✓ Western Renewable Energy Zone





Western Governors' Association (WGA)

www.westgov.org

- 19 Western U.S. States
- 3 U.S. Flag Pacific Islands
 - Guam
 - North Mariana Islands
 - American Samoa





Wildlife Corridors Initiative

*Western Governors' Association
Wildlife Corridors Initiative*



Photo courtesy of W. Karsh ©WCS

June 2008 Report

Protecting Wildlife Migration Corridors and Crucial Wildlife Habitat in the West

Working Groups:

Oil and gas

Transportation

Land use

Climate change

Energy

Science



Governors' Priorities

- Formation of a Wildlife Council
- Establish state Decision support systems (DSS) to:
 - ✓ Identify policies and best practices to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to corridors and crucial habitats
 - ✓ refine definitions and understand climate change impacts to support adaptation
- Establish policies to ensure information from DSS is considered early in the planning process to preserve sensitive landscapes
- Make the WGA Western Renewable Energy Zones Initiative a model for applying wildlife corridor recommendations
- Develop state, federal, and funding strategies
- Recommendations



Mission

- *“to identify key wildlife corridors and crucial habitats in the West and coordinate implementation of needed policy tools and options for preserving those landscapes.”*

Charter

- *“may become an independent, affiliated organization”, “may charter and establish state technical issue teams, ad hoc advisory committees”*



■ Work-plan

- ✓ Task I: Establish the Council
- ✓ Task II: Participate in the Western Renewable Energy Zones Initiative (WREZ)
- ✓ Task III: Coordinate development of a GIS-based Wildlife Decision Support System (DSS)
- ✓ Task IV: Establish policies, mechanisms and agreements that ensure application of the DSS in relevant planning and decision-making processes
- ✓ Task V: Congressional Strategy



■ Recent actions:

- ✓ MOU with Department of Interior, Energy and Agriculture
- ✓ Western Renewable Energy Zones engagement
- ✓ Letter on climate adaptation in Waxman -Markey
- ✓ Pilot project proposal to DOE
- ✓ Development of DSS framework, refinement of definitions - for public input fall '09
- ✓ **Next meeting:** Oct 5-6 in Helena, Montana



Memorandum of Understanding

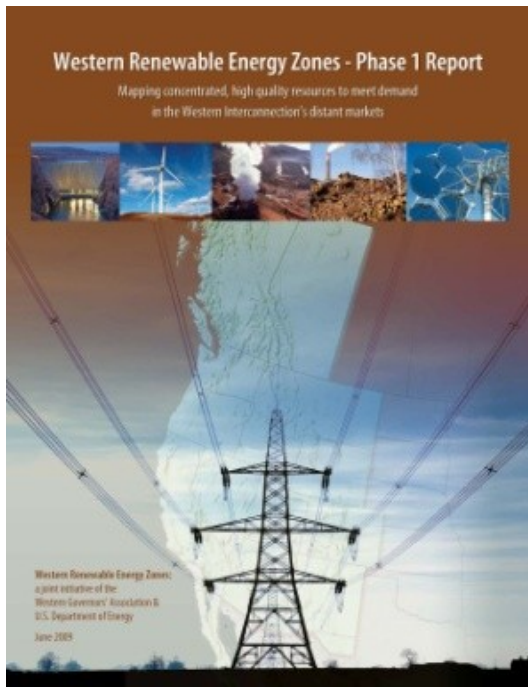
“We urge the Secretaries to have their agencies work closely with our [wildlife] council in developing these systems to help minimize impacts to the wildlife that are such a vital part of our Western heritage, landscape and economy.”

-Governor Brian Schweitzer, Chairman, WGA

- June 15, 2009 Western Governors signed a MOU with Departments of Agriculture, Energy and Interior.
 - Federal/State coordination on developing state-based DSSs.
 - Utilization of data from all sectors and coordinated process for data standardization.
 - Naming of contacts for state and federal coordination.



WGA Western Renewable Energy Zones

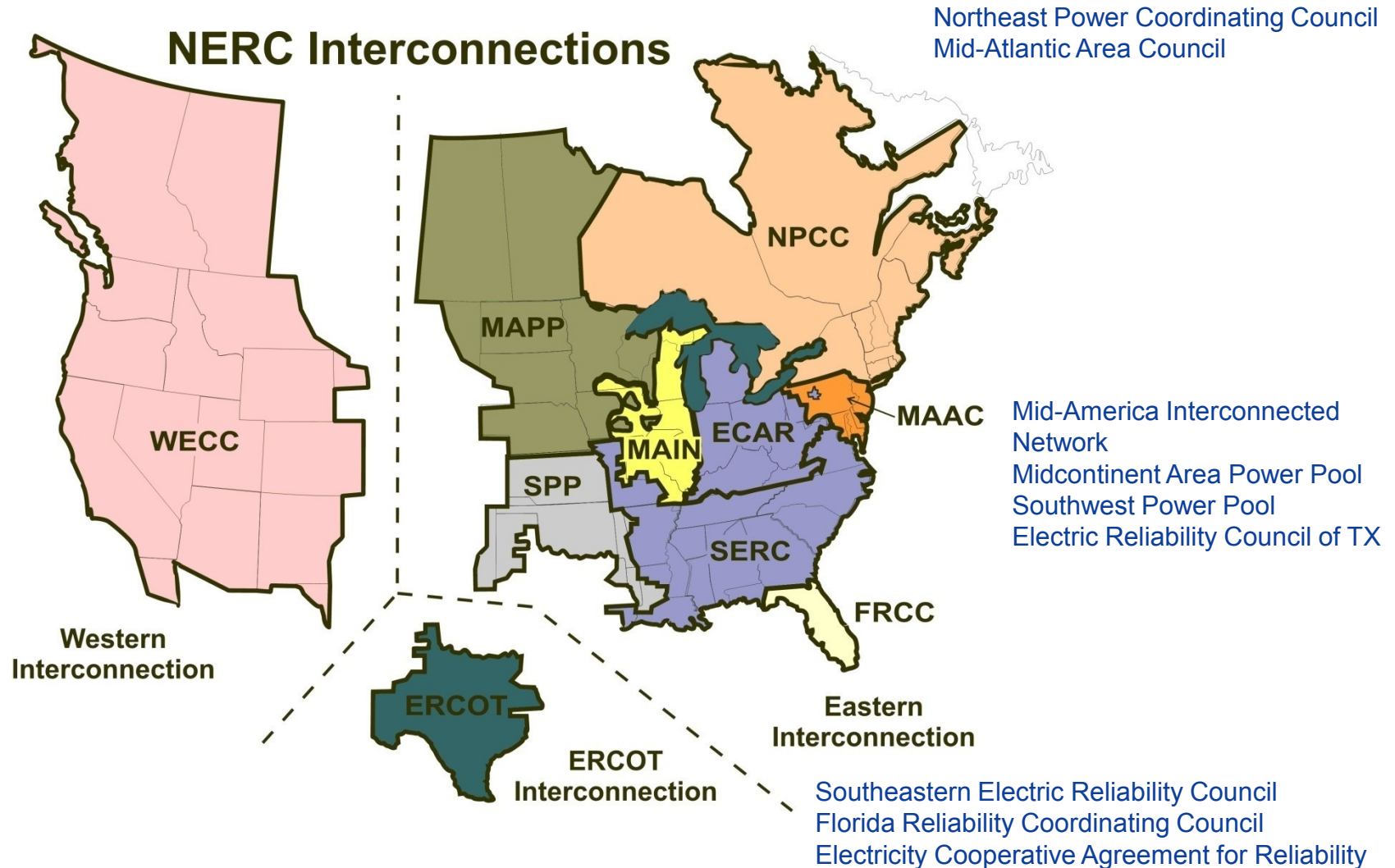


WREZ Goal: expedite development and delivery of clean energy from areas of the West with vast renewable resources.

- WGWC asked to categorize wildlife sensitivity to renewable energy development within identified resource areas.



Three Transmission Grids





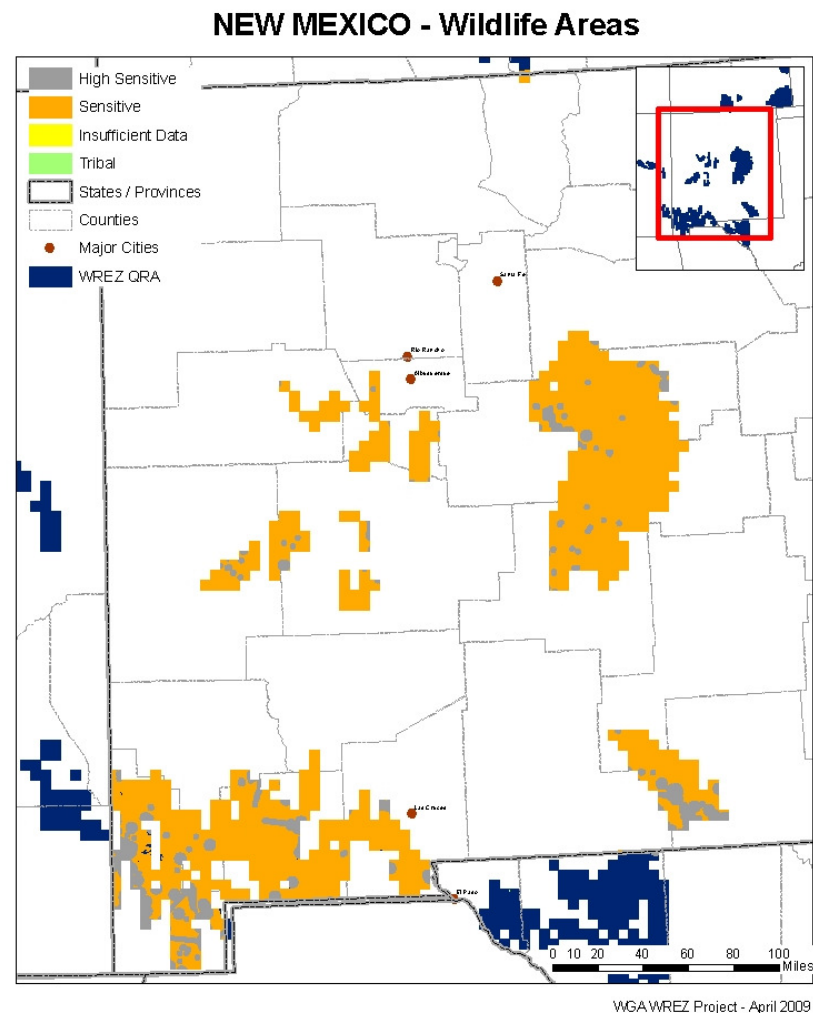
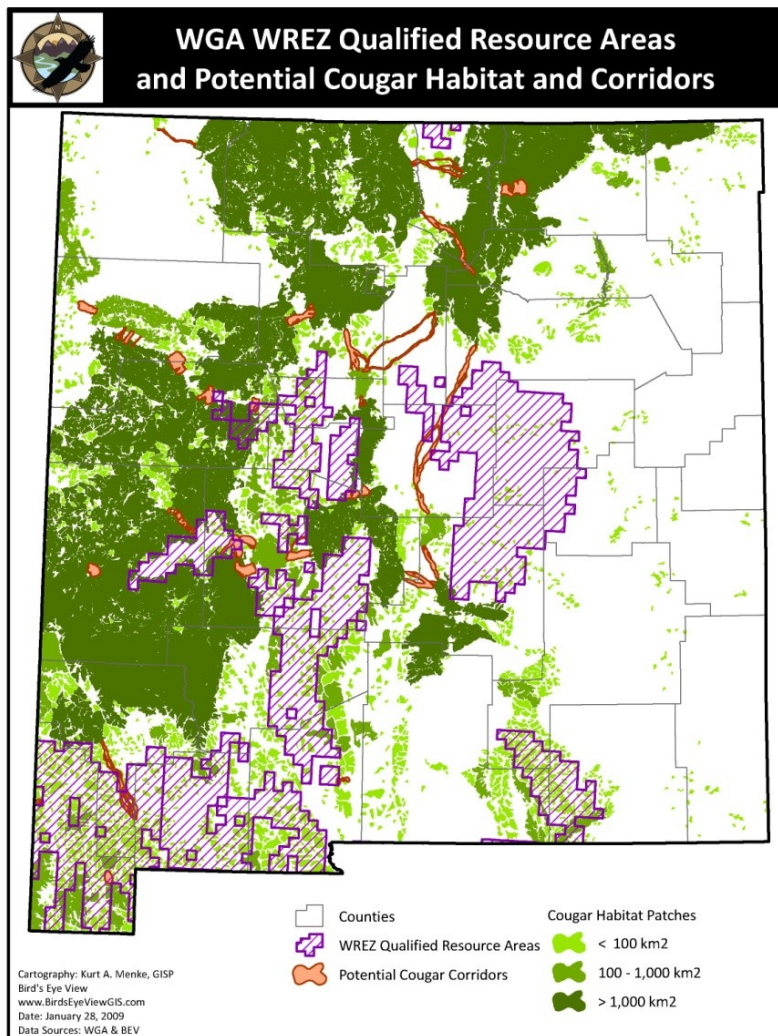
WREZ Initiative Pilot for Wildlife Corridors Initiative

- Most of 11 WREZ states provided GIS data layers for sensitive wildlife categorized as:
 - High sensitive
 - Sensitive
 - Insufficient data

- No stakeholder recommendation on development potential in sensitive areas, however some states chose to discount energy potential in wildlife sensitive areas



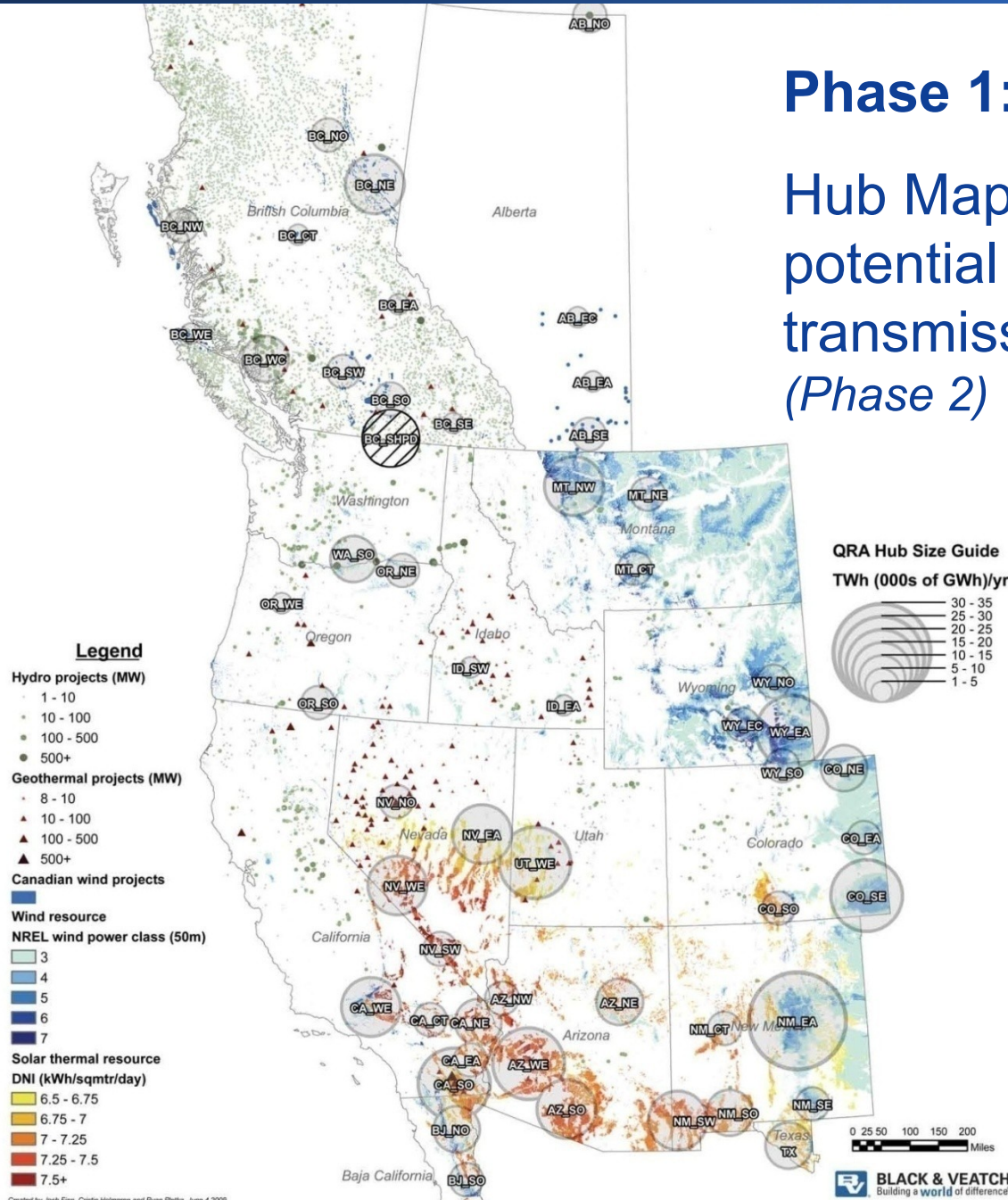
Renewable Energy Zones - Maps



Phase 1: Defining the WREZs

Hub Map showing energy potential estimates to use in transmission planning models
(Phase 2)

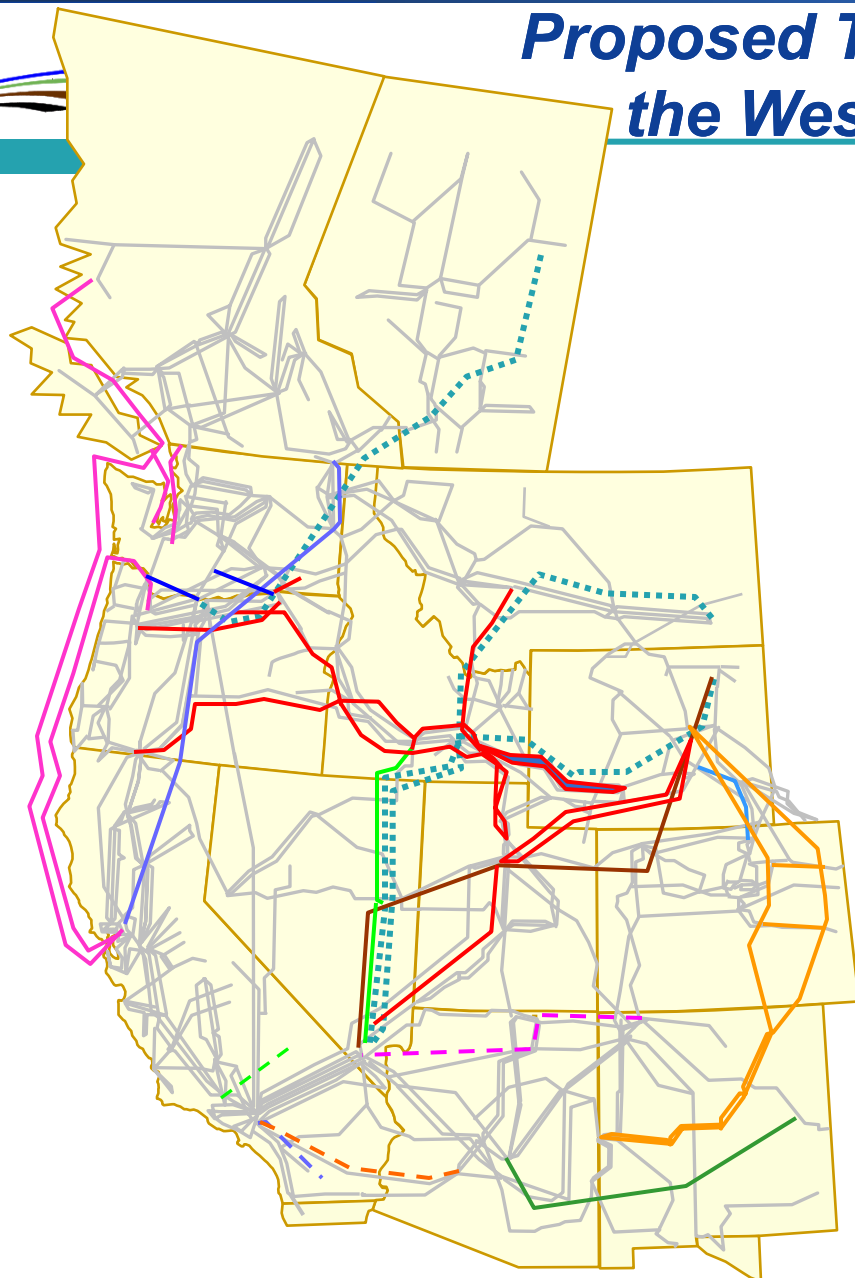
Future WREZ work:
finalize and clarify
state categorizations
& future inputs into
transmission
development





Proposed Transmission Projects in the Western Interconnection

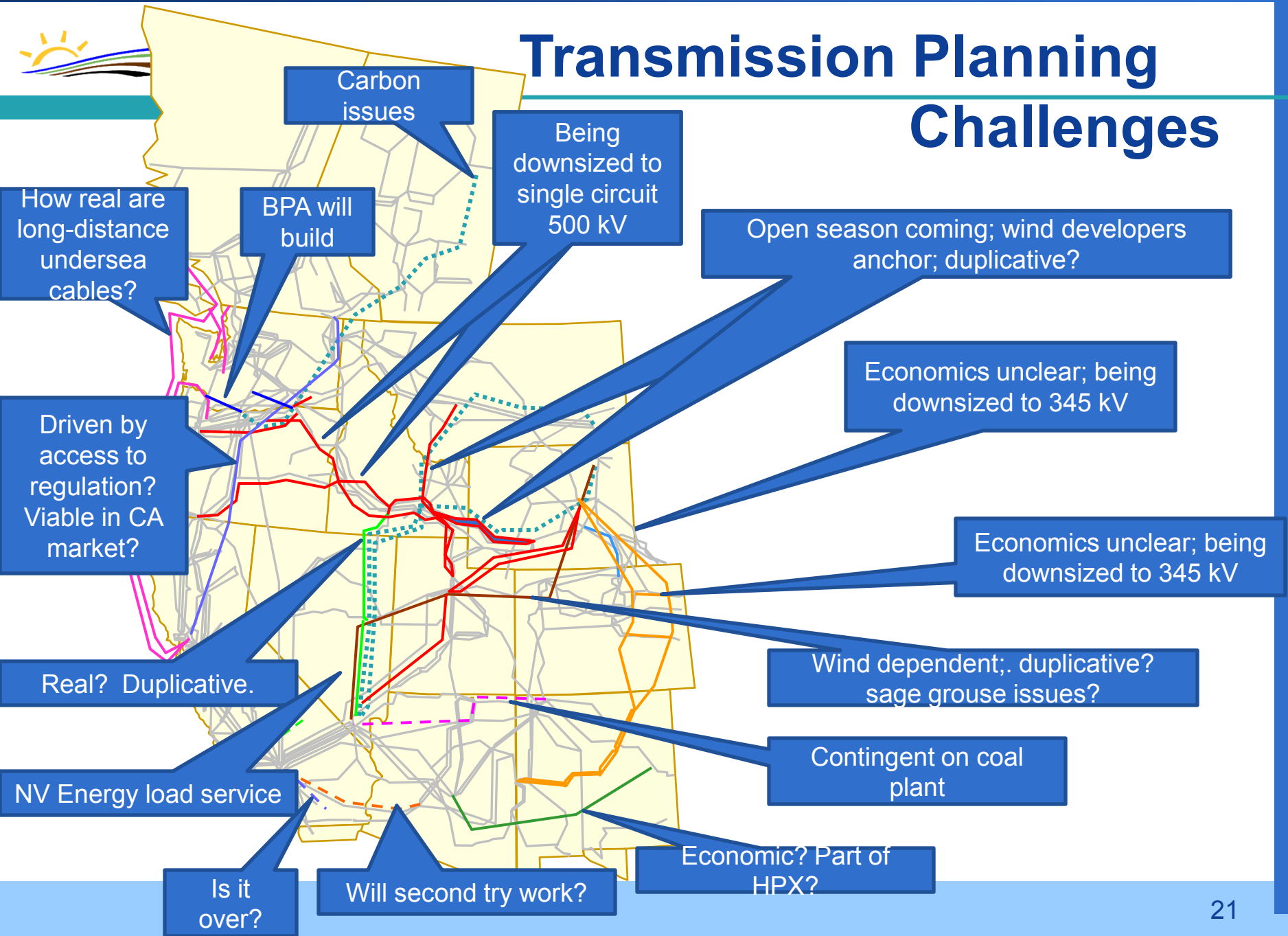
*Note: This plot includes selected projects from Table 3.2 of 2008 TEPPC Study Plan(v7)
Projects have been grouped to simplify coding.*



- Sea Breeze Projects
- TransCanada Projects
- Gateway & Other NTTG Projects
- Columbia Grid Projects
- TransWest Express
- LS Power & Great Basin Projects
- WY-CO Intertie Project
- High Plains Express
- Sun-ZIA
- Canada/PacNW-NoCalif
- - - Central CA Clean Energy (C3ET)
- - - Green Path North
- - - Devers-Palo Verde 2
- - - Navajo Transmission Project



Transmission Planning Challenges





WREZ Phase 2: Forging Transmission Plans

- Finalized the Modeling Tool & Trained Users
- Incorporate the Modeling Tool
- Identification of “Preferred” Hubs
- Conceptual Transmission



Phase 3: Coordinating Energy Purchasing from the WREZs

- Stakeholders will work to bring state and provincial utility commissions, utilities and generators together to increase the coordination of power purchasing to facilitate development of a region-wide market for renewable power.



Phase 4: Fostering Interstate Cooperation for Renewable Energy Generation and Transmission

- Address:
 1. Cost allocation issues (*streamline/coordinate inter-jurisdictional*)
 2. Siting
 3. Permitting processes
- Facilitate collaboration:
 - Among the private sector and regulators to advance the goals of the WREZ initiative.



Federal Legislation

- **The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009** AKA House Bill 2454, or the Waxman-Markey bill, passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 219-212 on June 26, 2009.
 - It establishes national limits on greenhouse gases, creates a complex trading system for emission permits and provide incentives to alter how individuals and corporations use energy.
 - The bill, if it became law, would lead to vast changes in the ways energy is made, sold and used in the United States -- putting new costs over time on electricity from fossil fuels and directing new billions to "clean" power from sources such as the wind and the sun.
- **Senator Harry Reid (D-NV)** introduced on 3/5/09 **S. 539** Clean Renewable Energy and Economic Development Act
 - A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the President to designate certain geographical areas as national renewable energy zones, and for other purposes.



Department of Interior

- ‘Fast-Track’ Initiatives for Solar Energy Development on Western Lands
 - Federal agencies will work with western leaders to designate tracts of public lands in the West as prime zones for utility-scale solar energy development
 - Fund environmental studies
 - Open new renewable energy permitting offices and
 - Speed reviews of industry proposals.



Opportunities Under the WGA MOU

- Stimulate capacity building for centralized data management within states
- Encourage all partners to contribute and use the DSSs
- Support staffing and data structure
- Partner in developing additional pilot projects to demonstrate efficacy of DSSs.



For more information, please visit

www.westgov.org/initiatives/corridors

<http://www.westgov.org/wga/initiatives/wrez/>



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Questions and Answers